

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 L-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SS-15

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P 142203Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2211

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 1039

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: CI, PFOR, US, SCUL

SUBJECT: ST. GEORGE'S SCHOOL

REF: A. SANTIAGO 986; B. STATE 31554; C. SANTIAGO 902

1. SUMMARY: HOLY CROSS REP. HERE FINDS GOC MEMO RESULTING FROM FEB 10 MEETING WITH PINOCHET "TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE" AND IS PLANNING TO RECOMMEND TO HIS SUPERIORS THAT HOLY CROSS REQUEST FORMAL USG INTERVENTION. END SUMMARY

2. FATHER DONOSO CALLED ON EMBOFF FEB. 14 TO GIVE US COPY OF MEMO, SIGNED BY EDUCATION MIN. CASTRO, RESULTING FROM FEB 10 MEETING WITH PINOCHET (REF C). MEMO STATES GOC AGREES IN PRINCIPLE TO RETURN OF ST. GEORGES TO HOLY CROSS ORDER BUT CONDITIONS THIS ON CONTINUANCE OF A GOC MILITARY DELEGATE UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. DELEGATE WILL HAVE "TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE AND OPERATIONAL CONTROL OF SCHOOL", INCLUDING CONTROL OVER FUNDS AND RIGHT TO APPROVE AND REMOVE HOLY CROSS PRIESTS WHO TEACH THERE. HOLY CROSS WOULD APPOINT AN "ACADEMIC RECTOR", BUT HE WOULD BE "UNDER THE JURISDICTION" OF MILITARY DELEGATE AND WOULD ALSO BE HELD RESPONSIBLE "FOR THE CONDUCT OF THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE CONGREGATION" AT THE SCHOOL. COPY OF MEMO BEING POUCHED TO ARA/BC.

3. DONOSO TERMED GOC MEMO "TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE" AND SAID HE HAD SO INFORMED PROVINCIAL LEWERS BY TELEPHONE. DONOSO PLANS TO WRITE LEWERS IN NEAR FUTURE TRANSMITTING TEXT OF MEMO
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AND HIS RECOMMENDATIONS AS TO ORDER'S NEXT MOVE. DONOSO SAID THAT AT THIS POINT HE SEES NO ALTERNATIVE TO FORMAL

REQUEST FROM ORDER FOR USG INTERVENTION.

4. IN RESPONSE TO EMBOFF'S QUESTION, DONOSO SAID HIS FIRST MEETING WITH "MEDIATOR" JULIO PHILIPPI IS SCHEDULED FOR MIDDAY FEB 15. EMBOFF NOTED OUR VIEW (REF A) THAT INVOLVEMENT OF PHILIPPI WAS A POTENTIALLY HOPEFUL SIGN, SINCE HE IS A MAN OF OUTSTANDING INTEGRITY AND ABILITY, AND THAT PERHAPS DONOSO WOULD FEEL LESS PESSIMISTIC AFTER THAT MEETING. DONOSO ACKNOWLEDGED THE POINT, BUT SAID THAT PATIENCE OF ORDER WITH WHAT IT VIEWS AS GOC'S DELAYING TACTICS IS ABOUT AT AN END.

5. COMMENT: HOLY CROSS ORDER MAY CONCLUDE THAT FAMILIAR PATTERN IS BEING REPEATED OF RELATIVE GENIALITY WITH PINOCHET, AND FROSTY TOUGHNESS WHEN CASTRO PUTS SUPPOSED AGREEMENT INTO PRACTICAL TERMS. WE NOTE ALSO DONOSO'S REPORT (REF C) THAT FEB 10 DISCUSSION WAS INCONCLUSIVE ON INTERIM ROLES OF RECTOR AND GOC DELEGATE. AS SEEN BY CASTRO, FORMER'S ROLE CONSISTS OF VERY LITTLE. DIFFERENCE NOW IS PRESENCE OF PHILIPPI. WE WOULD HOPE HOLY CROSS WOULD GIVE HIM AN OPPORTUNITY TO PLAY CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NATIONALIZATION, ST GEORGES SCHOOL, NEGOTIATIONS, CHURCH STATE RELATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975SANTIA01039
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750055-0157
From: SANTIAGO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750241/aaaabkpp.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. SANTIAGO 986; B. STATE 31554; C., SANTIAGO 902
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 SEP 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <20 NOV 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ST. GEORGE'S SCHOOL
TAGS: PFOR, SEDU, CI, US, HOLY CROSS CONGREGATION, (DONOSO, FERMIN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006